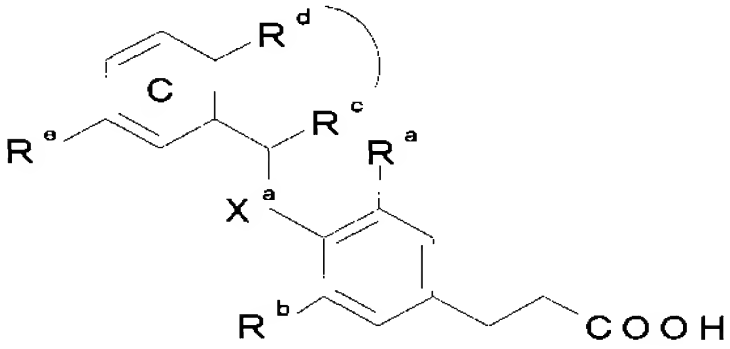
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. Canceled

6. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula:



(II)

wherein R^a is ~~a hydrogen atom,~~ a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group ~~a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s)~~;

R^b is a hydrogen atom, or a fluorine atom~~, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),~~

~~with the proviso that when one of R^a and R^b is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom~~;

R^c is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group ~~a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), or a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s)~~;

~~R^d is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group~~

~~optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),~~

~~or R^e and R^d are optionally bonded to each other to form a ring optionally having substituent(s);~~

~~R^e is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),~~

~~with the proviso that when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;~~

~~X^e is an oxygen atom, or a methylene group optionally having substituent(s); and~~

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having, in addition to R^d and R^e, further substituent(s) selected from the group eonsisting of (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (iii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-amino, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, tri-C_{1-6} alkylsilyloxy, and a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 hetcroatoms of onc or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C_{6-14} aryloxy group, and (v) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group; and

(1) when R^d is a hydrogen atom,

then R^e should be (i) a hydroxy group, (ii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) sclected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl and di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, (iii) a C_{2-6} alkynyloxy group, (iv) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally having substitucnt(s) sclected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, or (vi) a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclyl-oxy group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom;

(2) when R^e is a hydrogen atom,

then R^d should be (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group, (ii) a C_{6-14} aryl group, (iii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) with a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, (vi) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group, or (vii) a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom,
or a salt thereof~~, except (i) 3,5-difluoro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (ii) 3-chloro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (iii) 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-ylmethoxy)-3-chlorobenzenepropanoic acid, (iv) 4-[(4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrophenyl)methoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid, and (v) 4-[3-hydroxy-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid~~.

7-9. Canceled

10. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 6, wherein ~~at least one of R^a and R^b is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;~~ R^c is a hydrogen atom; ~~X^a is an oxygen atom;~~ R^d is a hydrogen atom; and R^e is a C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl.

11-13. Canceled

14. (Original) 3,5-Difluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or 3-fluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

15. (Original) 3-(4-{[3-(4-Chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3,5-difluorophenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(2-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(3-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]-oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-{3-methyl-4-[(3-phenoxybenzyl)oxy]phenyl}propanoic acid, or 3-(4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3-methylphenyl)propanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

16-17. Canceled

18. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound aeeording to claim 6, or a salt thereof~~, or a prodrug thereof~~.

19-26. Canceled